

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, April 11, 2016.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Evangeline Gresser and former residents Edward Greene, Linda Sellin, Robert Joseph Kosisky and John M. Beckham. Mr. Herling then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, December 15, 2015
Work Session, February 17, 2016
Work Session, March 7, 2016
Interview, March 14, 2016
Work Session, March 16, 2016
Interview, March 21, 2016
Regular Meeting, March 29, 2016

Committee Reports: Council accepted the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees, Report #2016-1 (Recommended Tree Species Appropriate for Greenbelt Parks) and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

Letter to State Delegation – Support of the Stream Valley Trail at Greenbelt Station: Council approved sending a letter to the State delegation requesting their support and assistance in expediting review and approval of the Stream Valley Trail project through State processes.

Letter to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) – Support of the WMATA Trail from Greenbelt Station to the Greenbelt Metro Station: Council approved sending a letter to Jack Evans, WMATA Board of Directors, requesting WMATA support and assistance in expediting approval of the pedestrian and bicyclist trail project between the Greenbelt Metro Station and the Greenbelt Station residential development.

Reappointments to Advisory Groups: Council reappointed the following individuals to new terms on City Advisory Boards and Committees:

Susan Gregersen and Joseph Murray
Eva Fallon and John Lippert

Laura Kressler

Forest Preserve Advisory Board
Greenbelt Advisory Committee on
Environmental Sustainability
Public Safety Advisory Committee

Resignations from Advisory Groups: Council accepted the resignation of Willis Witter from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Kathleen Gallagher from the Board of Elections.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Davis requested “Appointments to Advisory Groups” and “Federal Legislation H.R. 4696” be added to the agenda. With these additions, it was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Proclamation – National Public-Safety Telecommunicators Week 2016: Mayor Jordan issued a proclamation recognizing the second week of April as National Public-Safety Telecommunicators Week. Communications Specialists Jessica Houle, Michael Halpert, Samantha Loncon and Mary Doane received the proclamation. Lt. Gordon Pracht also recognized Communications Supervisor Alicia Williams and Communications Specialists Marcia Brown, Lindsey Loving, Maria Auchter and Sarah Gignac who were unable to be present.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Barbara Simon, President of the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC), said the GCDC has reviewed the Greenbelt Road Streetscape project and have some suggested modifications. Ms. Simon requested Council schedule a work session with GCDC, the State Highway Administration and County Councilmember Turner to discuss the project.

Patricia Walters, Greenbelt Station resident, expressed concern about Greenbelt Station Parkway being extended (if the FBI relocates to Greenbelt) and its impact to the flood plain and Indian Creek. She advised that residents of Greenbelt Station are interested in holding cleanups of Indian Creek and have already been in touch with the City’s Public Work Department. Council encouraged Ms. Walters and the residents of Greenbelt Station to participate in the City’s Earth Day event this Saturday at Indian Creek. Ms. Davis also suggested she contact Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC).

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, inquired about past executive sessions of Council regarding annexation and acquisition of real property.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes – Executive Session of March 16, 2016: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 9:21 p.m., in Room 201 of the Community Center be approved as presented. She said Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, to discuss a personnel matter.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis	-	yes
Mr. Herling	-	yes
Ms. Mach	-	yes

Ms. Pope - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mayor Jordan - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Moran announced that the 2016 Legislative Session of the General Assembly will adjourn later this evening. He provided an update on legislative items that the City had either supported or opposed.

Ms. Murray provided an update on same day voter registration at Early Voting locations for the 2016 Primary Election.

Mr. McLaughlin announced that the Schrom Hills Fitness Center is now open.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

LETTER TO U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REGARDING PARKING REQUIREMENT INCREASE FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Garth Beall, Renard Development, reported that the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) recently announced a revised employee parking requirement for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters Consolidation at the proposed Greenbelt site. He said the revision increases the parking requirement from 3,600 to 6,076 spaces which is beyond the parking ratio recommended by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

Mr. Beall advised that GSA's decision to increase required parking at the Greenbelt site is inconsistent with the direction of Executive Orders as well as GSA's own Orders and NCPC guidelines. Additionally, he said increased parking will put the Greenbelt site at a competitive disadvantage.

Ms. Davis moved that Council send a letter to GSA opposing the decision to increase required parking at the Greenbelt site beyond the parking ratio recommended by NCPC guidance, and that the letter be included as a supplement to the City's letter of December 18, 2015, on the Draft FBI Headquarters Consolidation Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. Pope seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

SELECTION OF AUDIT SERVICES FOR FY 2016: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. McLaughlin noted Council needs to select an auditor to conduct the FY 2016 audit. The firm of Cohn Reznick has done the FY 2014 and FY 2015 audits.

Mr. McLaughlin and Council discussed a memorandum from Jeffrey Williams, City Treasurer, regarding the practice of changing audit firms every three years.

Ms. Davis said she thinks a three year rotation with an option for one and two years would work best. Ms. Pope agreed.

Mayor Jordan said he thinks issuing a new RFP every few years is a good practice. He said perhaps going to five years instead of three years could be considered.

Ms. Davis noted another option would be to retain the same audit firm but require that its staff be rotated every few years, which is the practice utilized by the City of Gaithersburg.

Mr. Roberts thinks terms for auditors should be kept as short as possible so firms don't get "too familiar" with the City.

Ms. Mach said that since it takes a new audit firm a couple years to learn how the City works, it makes sense to continue with Cohn Reznick for another year. She suggested a new RFP be issued next year for three years, with an additional two year option.

Ms. Pope suggested asking Cohn Reznick for an additional two year option on the current contract.

Ms. Pope moved that Council authorize the City contract with Cohn Reznick for the audit of the FY 2016 budget with an option that the contract be extended for FY 2017 and FY 2018. Mr. Herling seconded.

The motion passed 4-3. (Putens, Roberts, Jordan)

REFERRAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SECURITY CAMERAS: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council issue a referral to the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) requesting PSAC undertake a comprehensive review of existing security cameras in the City, hold public hearings in all areas of the City, determine if additional security cameras are needed and provide a City-wide security camera recommendation to Council. Ms. Davis seconded.

Ms. Davis requested that PSAC include in its report: 1) costs for each camera recommended; and 2) impacts of additional cameras on existing personnel, space, etc. She also suggested businesses and shopping centers be included. Ms. Pope suggested PSAC look at City owned areas first before proceeding with other areas.

Rohanie Bacchus, President of Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC), said GEAC would like to have a security camera in Schrom Hills Park.

Mr. Putens requested security camera(s) for Greenbelt Station also be considered.

The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Arbor Day Event – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Police Citizens Academy Meeting – Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Station Homeowners Meeting – Mr. Putens

First Annual Municipal Appreciation Day and Open House by Prince George's Economic Development Corporation – Mr. Herling and Ms. Mach
National League of Cities and National Association of Counties Joint Task Force Meeting to Address The Opioid and Heroin Crisis - Ms. Mach
Belle Point Preserve Cleanup – Mr. Herling
Official Opening of the Diyanet Center of America – Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling
Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Arts Center Open House – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Greater Washington Board of Trade and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Summit – Metrorail at 40 – Mayor Jordan

APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Ms. Davis moved that Council appoint Lauren Young and John Paul Schmit to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and Jane Young to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability and the Greenbelt Green Team. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION HOUSE BILL H.R. 4696: Ms. Davis reported that this bill would allow homeowners in community associations such as condominiums, housing cooperatives and homeowner associations, who earn \$115,000 or less in annual income, to deduct up to \$5,000 of their association fees and assessments from their federal tax liability. She said Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) has expressed its support of the bill, as well as some local homeowner associations.

Ms. Davis moved that Council support H.R. 4696. Mr. Putens seconded.

The motion passed 7-0.

Council requested a copy of the letter of support be sent to GHI and Condominium Venture, Inc.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016, at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held April 11, 2016."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor

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